

ABSOLUTE BATMAN



ALL IN

13+
TEEN

7



ND
D.

SNYDER
MARTÍN
VICENTE

THE MAN OF STEEL'S GREATEST YEAR BEGINS HERE!



ALL IN

SUMMER OF SUPERMAN

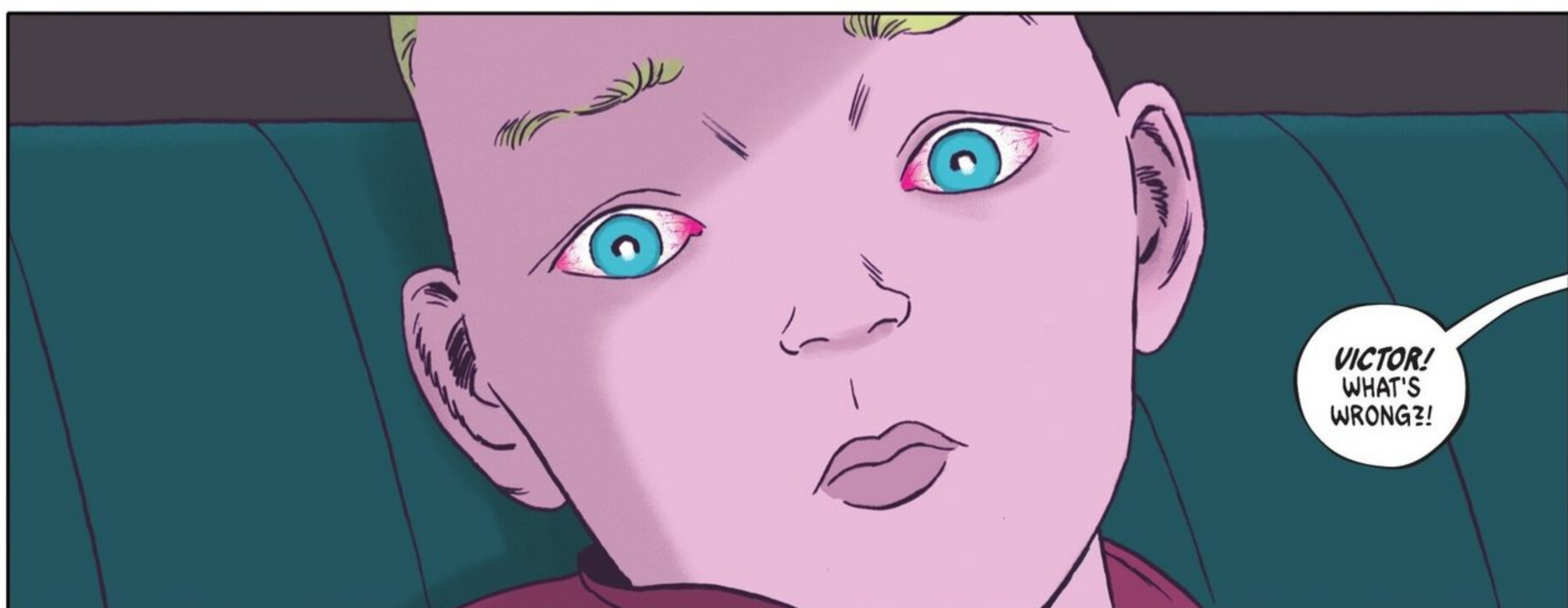
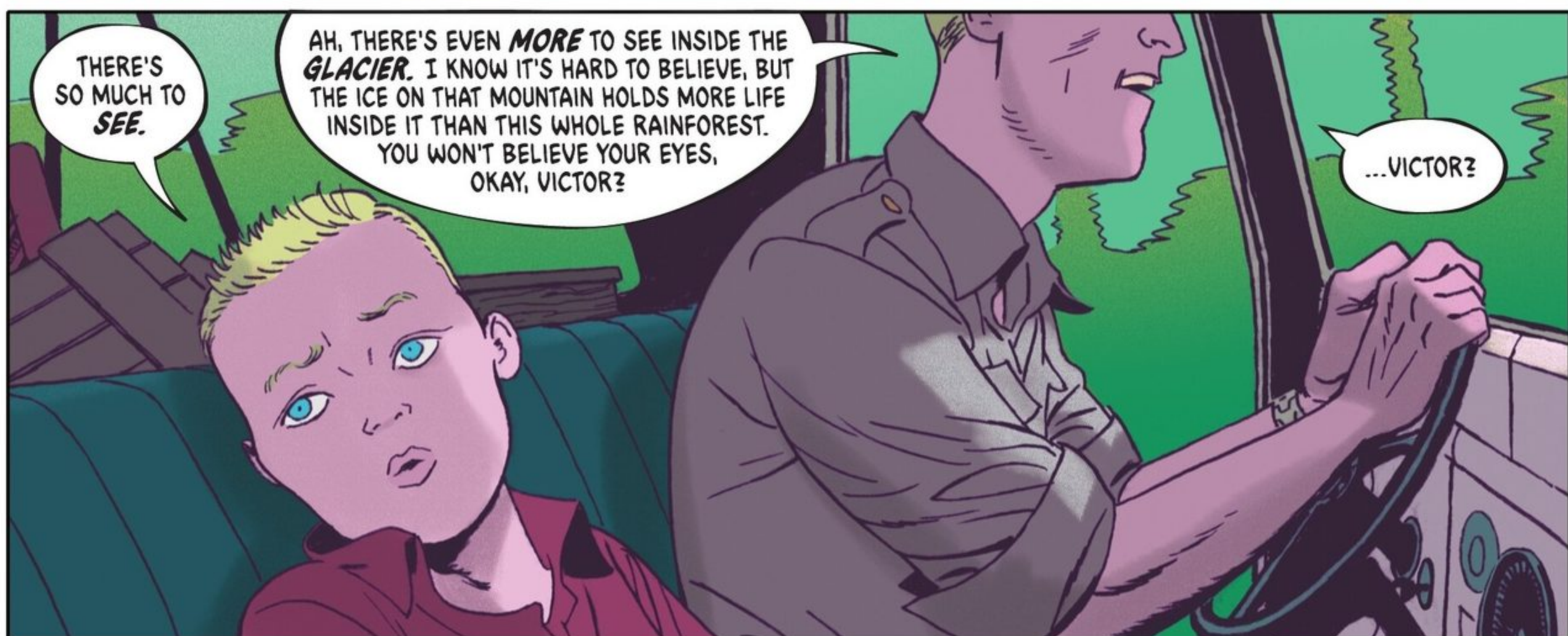
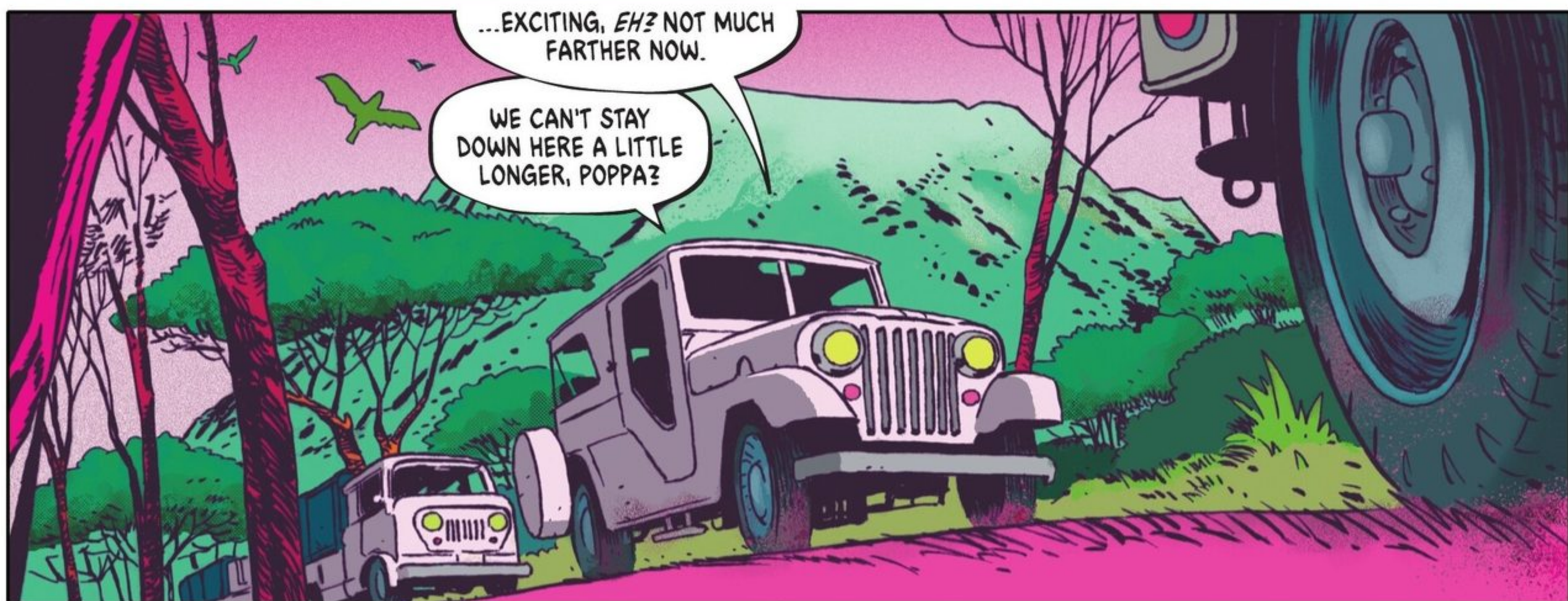
A 48-PAGE
ONE-SHOT
ON SALE IN
APRIL

SPECIAL #1



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MARK WAID, DAN SLOTT, JOSHUA WILLIAMSON, AND JORGE JIMÉNEZ
JOIN FORCES FOR A MUST-READ STORY DEFINING SUPERMAN'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE!



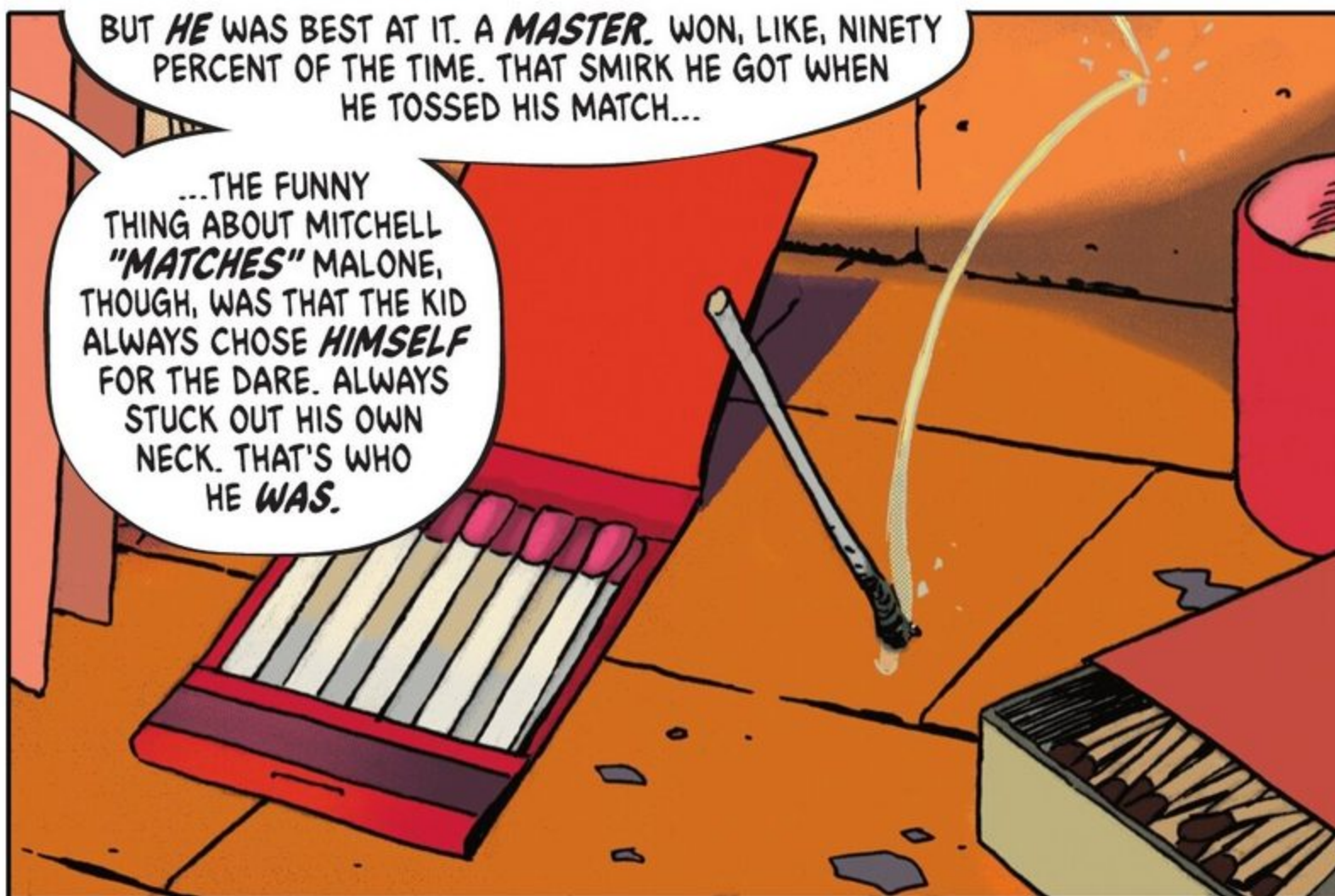
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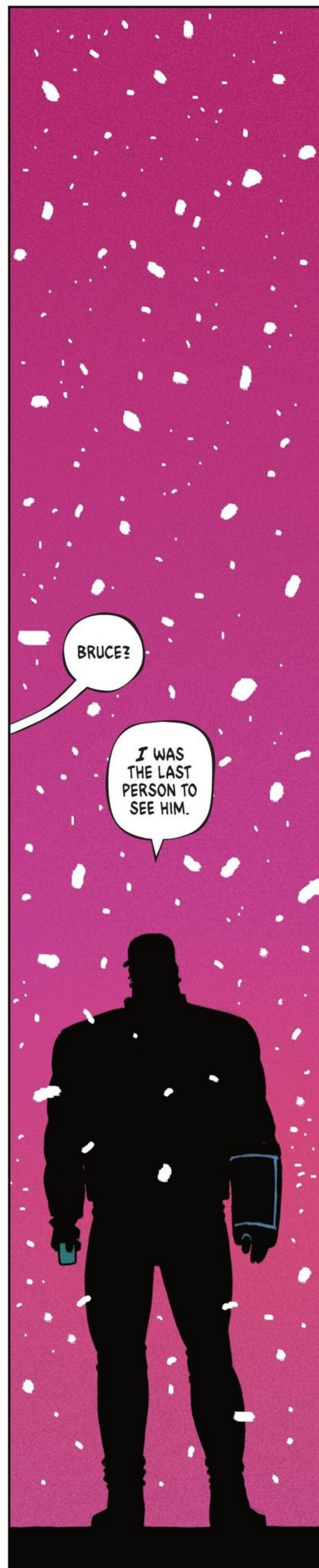
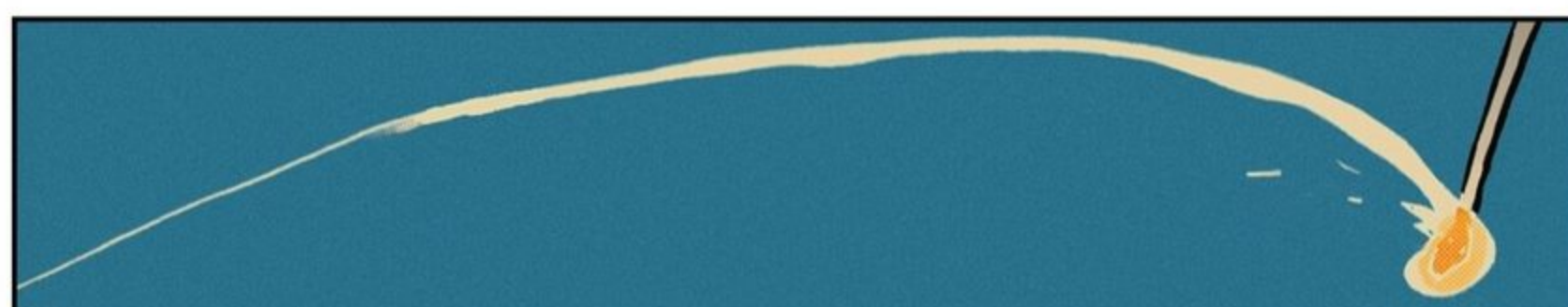
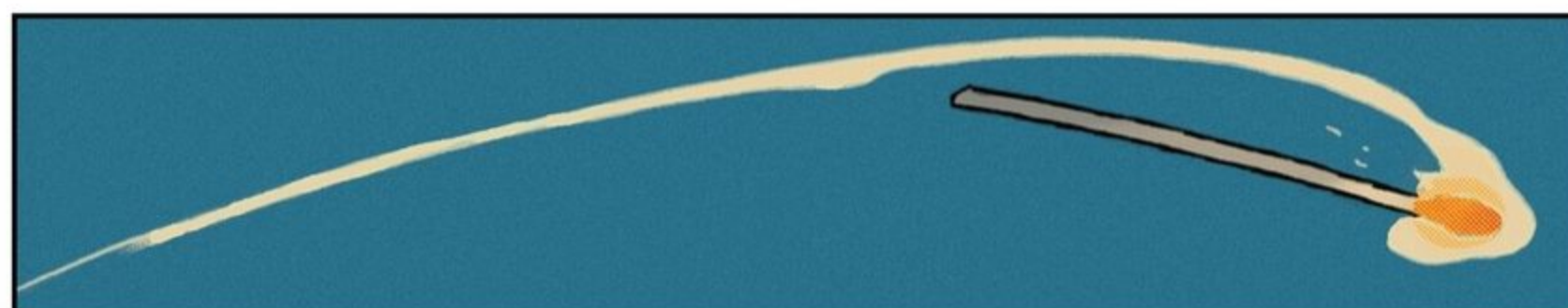


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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

GOTHAM CITY.
PRESENT DAY.





ONE WEEK AGO.



Batman Combat Journal.
April 19.

The city feels
strange...

...the streets look less
familiar every day.

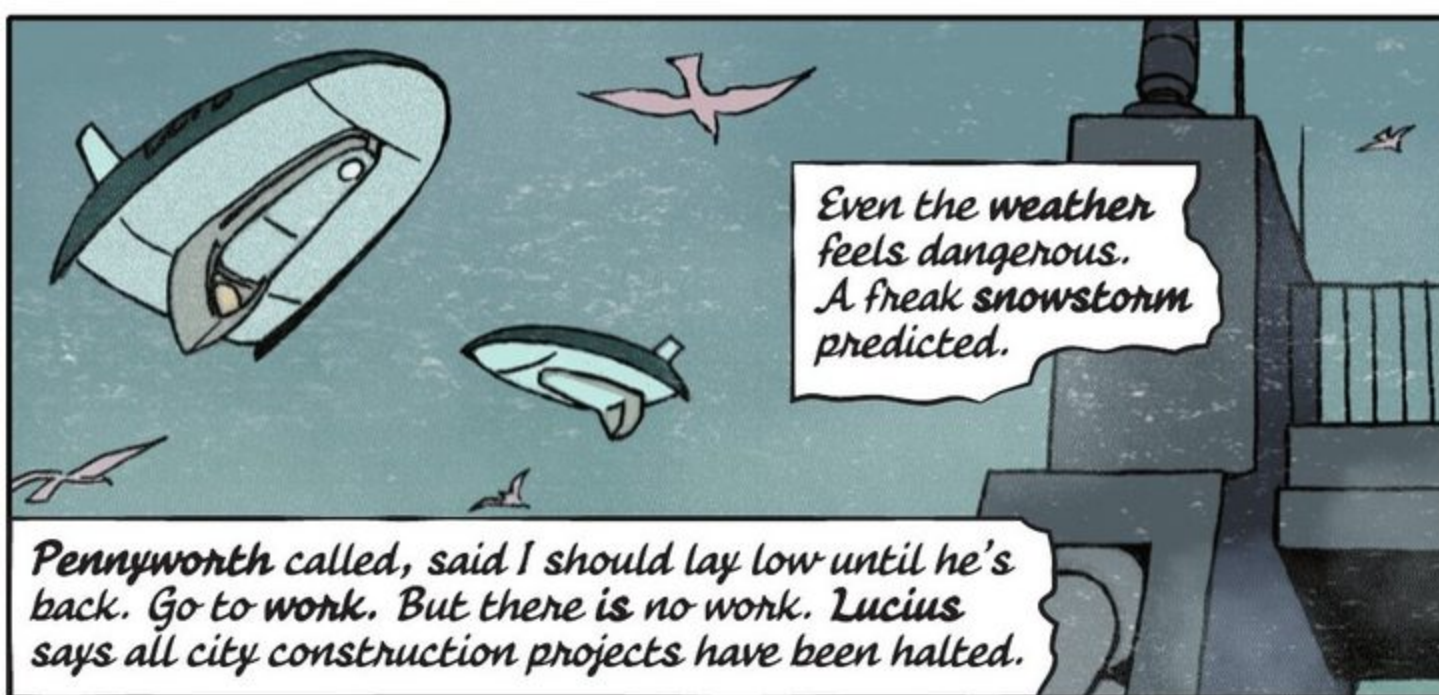
For the past month, ever since
the **Black Mask** incident, the
city has been under martial law
to "ensure people's safety from
threats like the **Batman**."



Mayor Hill has issued a 10 p.m. curfew. There are
police on every corner. Outfitted with fancy new gear.



Even the weather
feels dangerous.
A freak snowstorm
predicted.



Pennyworth called, said I should lay low until he's
back. Go to work. But there is no work. Lucius
says all city construction projects have been halted.

Something is happening. I can feel
it. Like this is all part of some
bigger campaign. Something too
big to see from the ground.

Whatever it is, though,
I can't shake the feeling it
all comes back to that place.



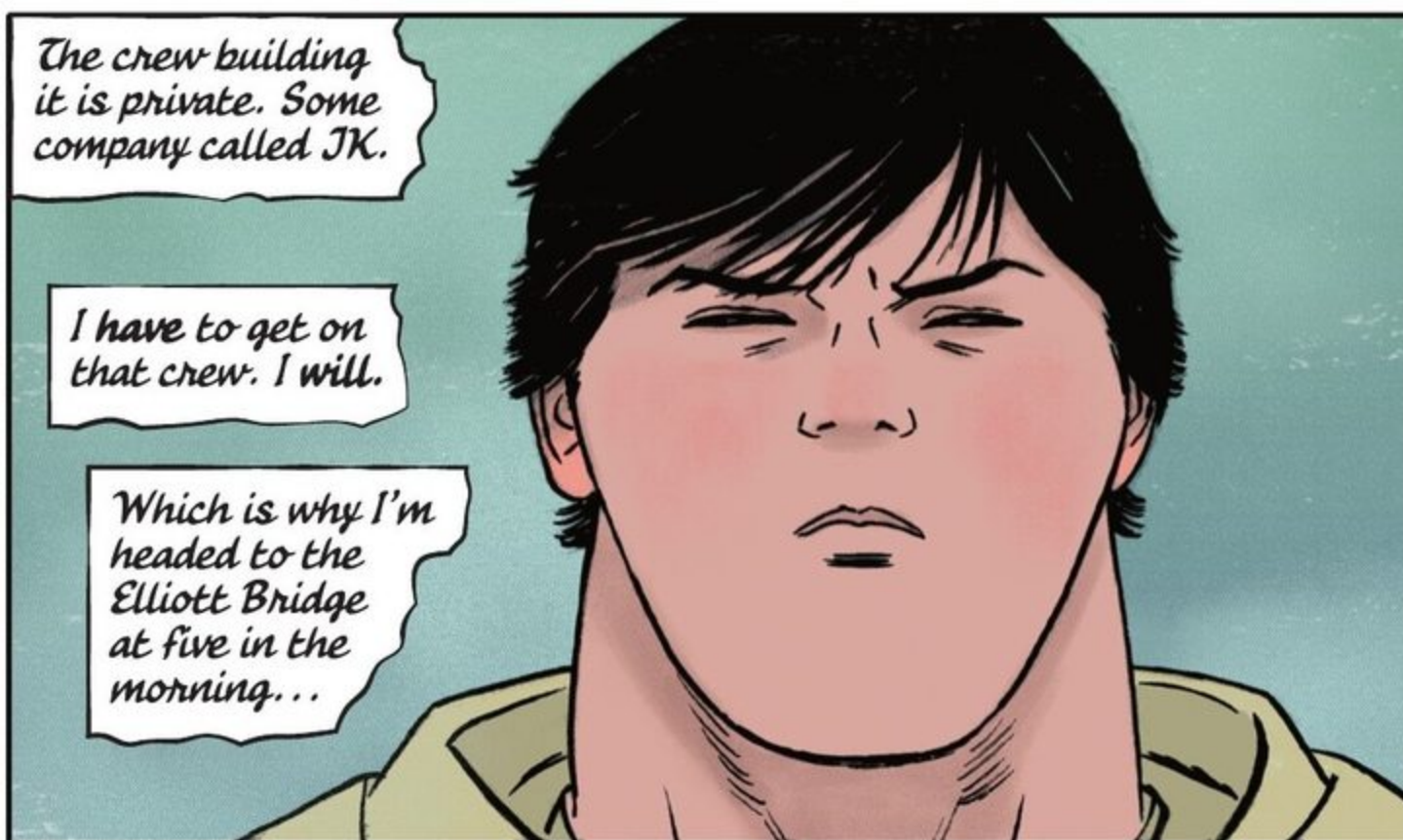
Ark M. The massive black site they're building
right off the coast of Gotham.



The crew building
it is private. Some
company called JK.

I have to get on
that crew. I will.

Which is why I'm
headed to the
Elliott Bridge
at five in the
morning...





...meeting Matches Malone.

BRUCE?
IS THAT
REALLY
YOU?

Last the guys heard, he was into running I.D. scams. High-end. Barcodes. Laser engraved. My hope was that he could get me work papers to get on the Ark M crew.

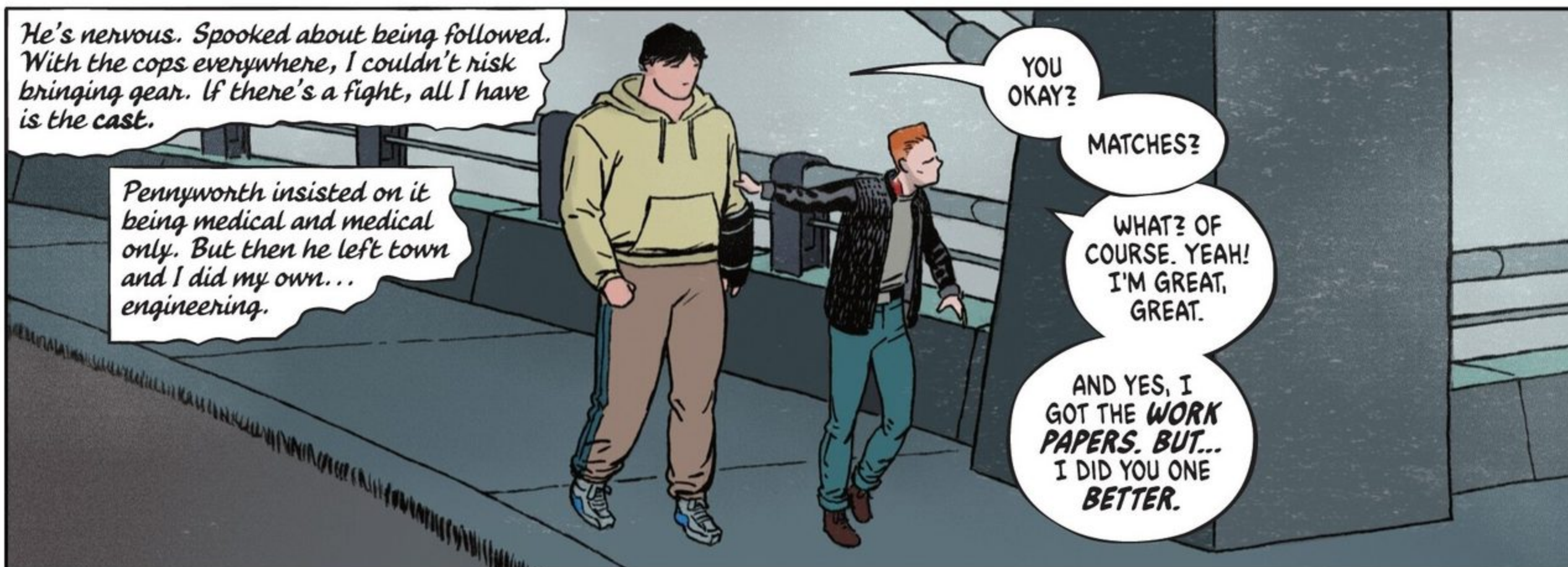


When I asked him two weeks ago, he said he'd get right on it. Then nothing until this morning, when he said it was urgent.

MATCHES.
HOW'RE--



WALK
WITH ME,
BUDDY.



He's nervous. Spooked about being followed. With the cops everywhere, I couldn't risk bringing gear. If there's a fight, all I have is the cast.

Pennyworth insisted on it being medical and medical only. But then he left town and I did my own... engineering.

YOU
OKAY?

MATCHES?

WHAT? OF
COURSE. YEAH!
I'M GREAT,
GREAT.

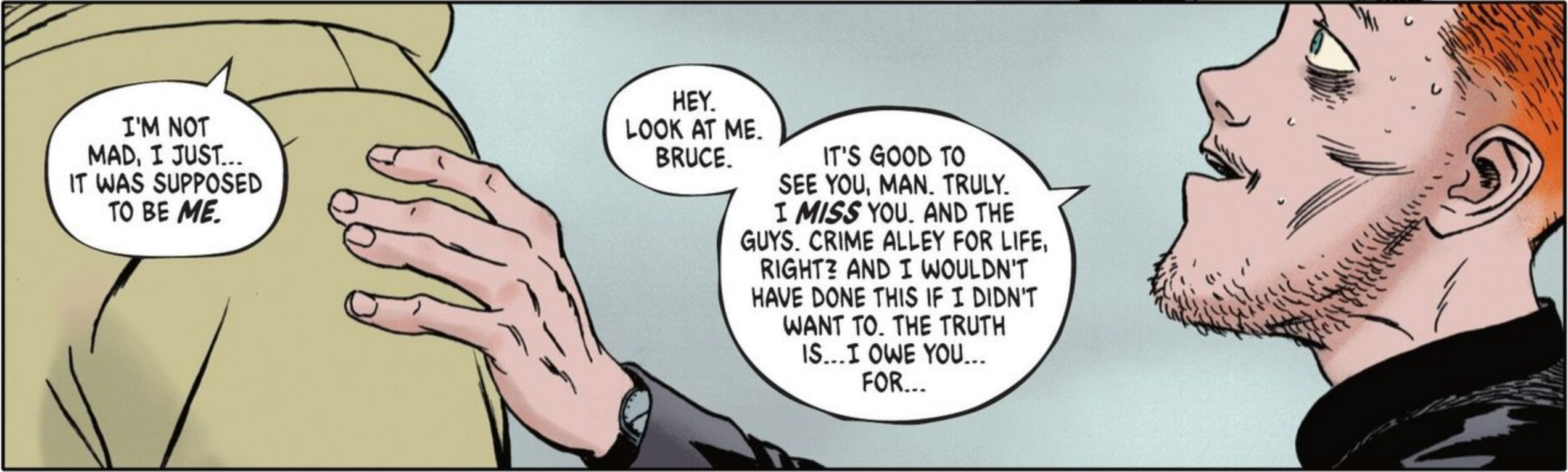
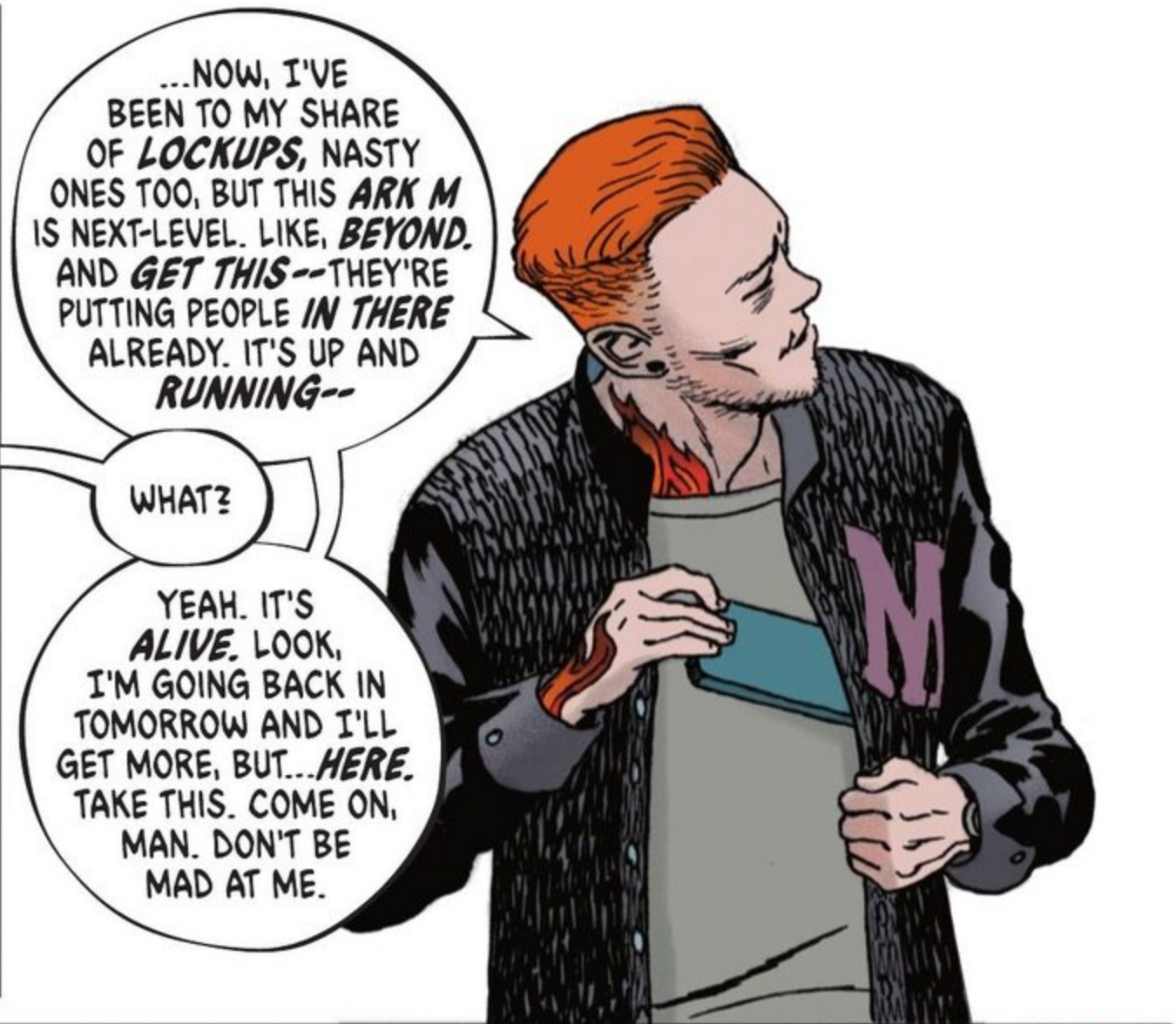
AND YES, I
GOT THE **WORK
PAPERS. BUT...**
I DID YOU ONE
BETTER.



YOU
DIDN'T.

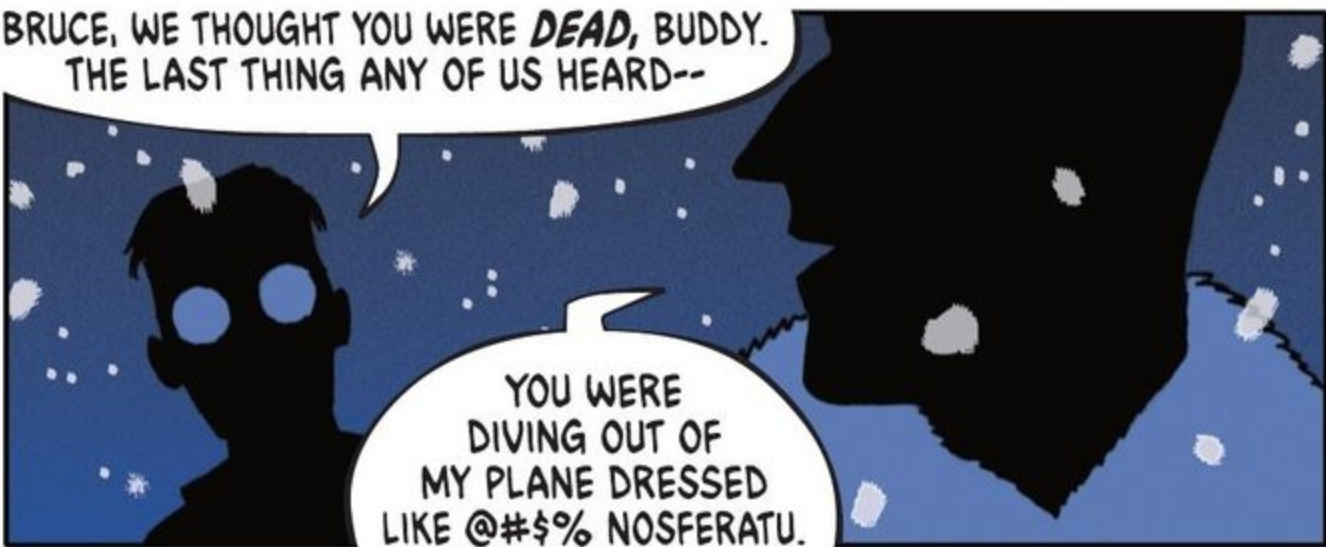


AH, BUT
I **DID**. I'VE
SPENT THE LAST
WEEK ON THEIR
CREW, **INSIDE**
THAT PLACE.









Batman combat journal.
April 29.

Matches' phone didn't
have much from Ark M,
but what it had was bad.

A four-second video shows
hundreds of windowless titanium
cells. And in the background,
I could hear crying, begging...
and screams.

At the end of the video was a list.
Whether Matches wrote it or found
it, I don't know. But it's filled
with names.

Langstrom. Isley. Strange.
Fries... names of researchers,
doctors around the world.

The only one with any connection
to Gotham is Dr. Victor Fries.
A pioneer of cryo-tech, he started
a company called V-Cone.

Which has an office right here in midtown.
For some reason, it pulls enough power
from the grid to light ten city blocks.
I need to get in there...

...but after curfew,
the streets are all
heavily patrolled. So
with the snowstorm
raging, the air
seemed safest.
Police blimps
flying blind.

All predictions said
the storm showed no
signs of stopping.

But then, as suddenly
as it began... it stops.
And I'm exposed.

IS
THAT...? IT
IS!

LAUNCH THE
DRONES!

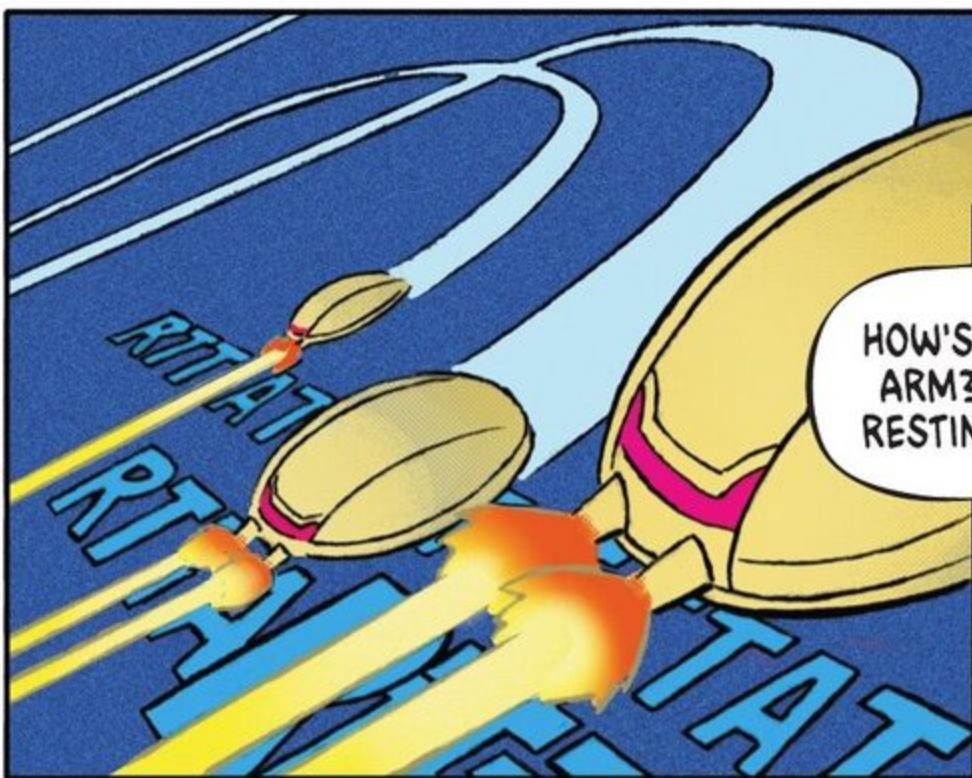
I go full
free-fall...



...and that's when Pennyworth patches through from London.

BRUCE? ARE YOU THERE? I HAVE INFORMATION.

I'M LISTENING.



HOW'S YOUR ARM? YOU RESTING IT?

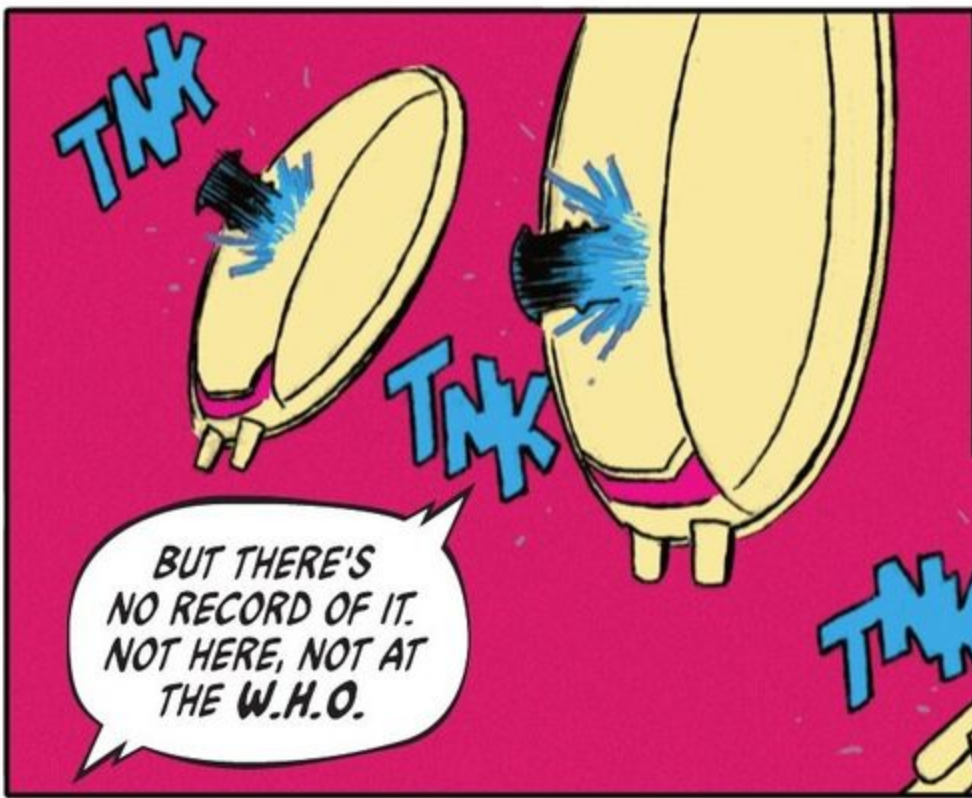


YEAH. WHAT'D YOU FIND OUT?

WHAT'S ALL THAT BLOODY NOISE IN THE--

THE BLOODY RADIO. THE *INFORMATION*, PENNYWORTH.

THE CASE YOU ASKED AFTER, IT'S NOT A BIOLOGICAL WEAPON OR EVEN A VIRUS... IT'S A *BACTERIUM*.



BUT THERE'S NO RECORD OF IT. NOT HERE, NOT AT THE W.H.O.



THEN WHERE DID IT COME FROM?





...THERE'S **NOTHING** LEFT TO SAY ABOUT IT. I SHOULD HAVE KEPT YOU **APART** FROM THIS. **ALL** OF YOU.



LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING. WAS IT FOR BATMAN, WHEN YOU **CLERKED** WITH ME?

AND **TRAINED** WITH ME.

AND **SLUMMED** IT WITH ME.

AND **STUDIED** WITH ME?

FUNNY, BRUCE. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU DID KEEP US ALL "**A PART**" WHEN IT COMES TO BATMAN.



ENOUGH. LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED TO MATCHES. I **WON'T--**



WE **ALL** KNOW WHY MATCHES WAS THE WAY HE WAS.

WAY...



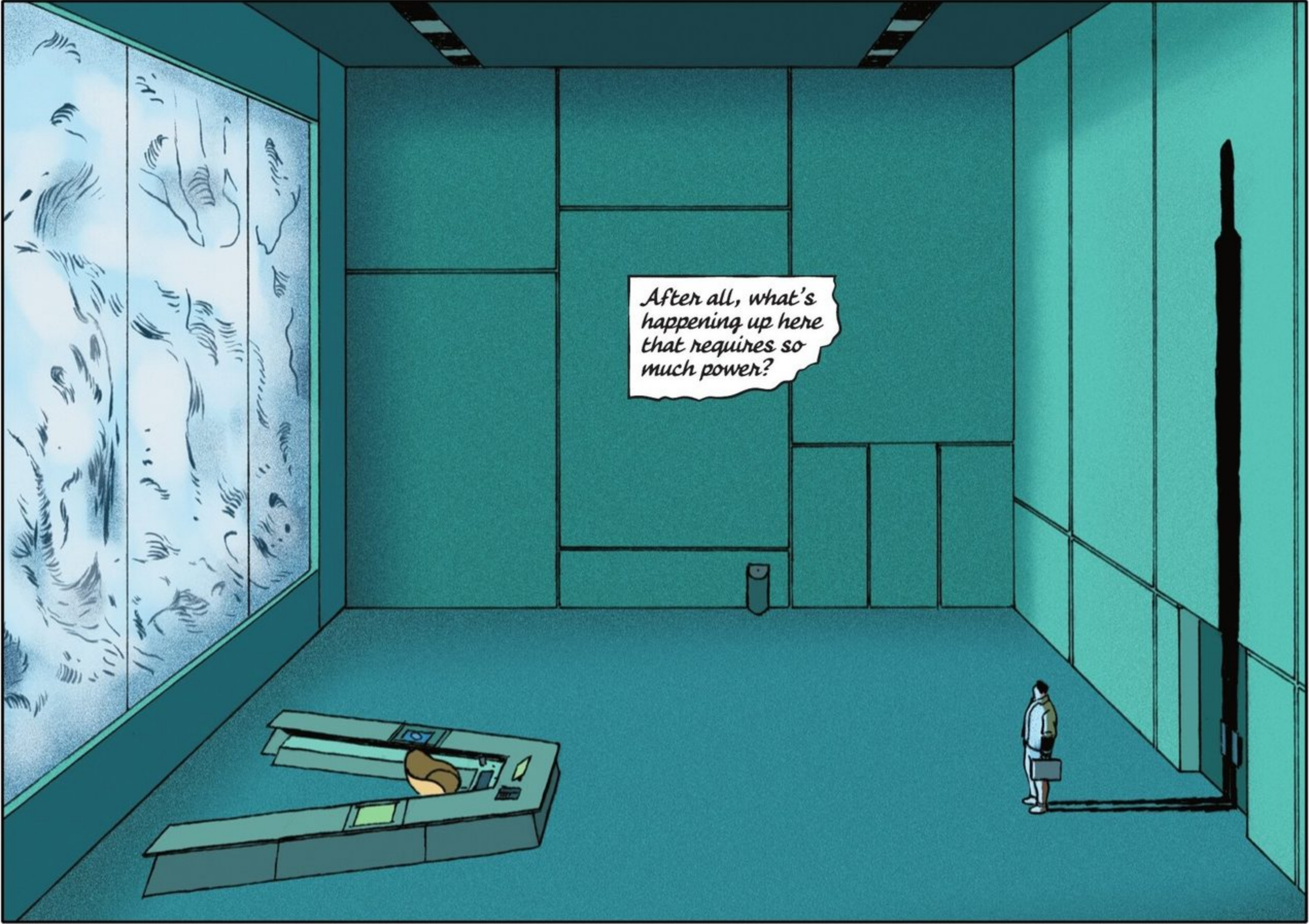
WAYLON'S RIGHT, OZZIE. IT'S TIME TO **DEAL** WITH THIS. LAY ALL THE **CARDS** ON THE TABLE.



NO. IT'S **TIME** FOR YOU TO GET OUT OF MY WAY SO I CAN GET BACK TO WORK.



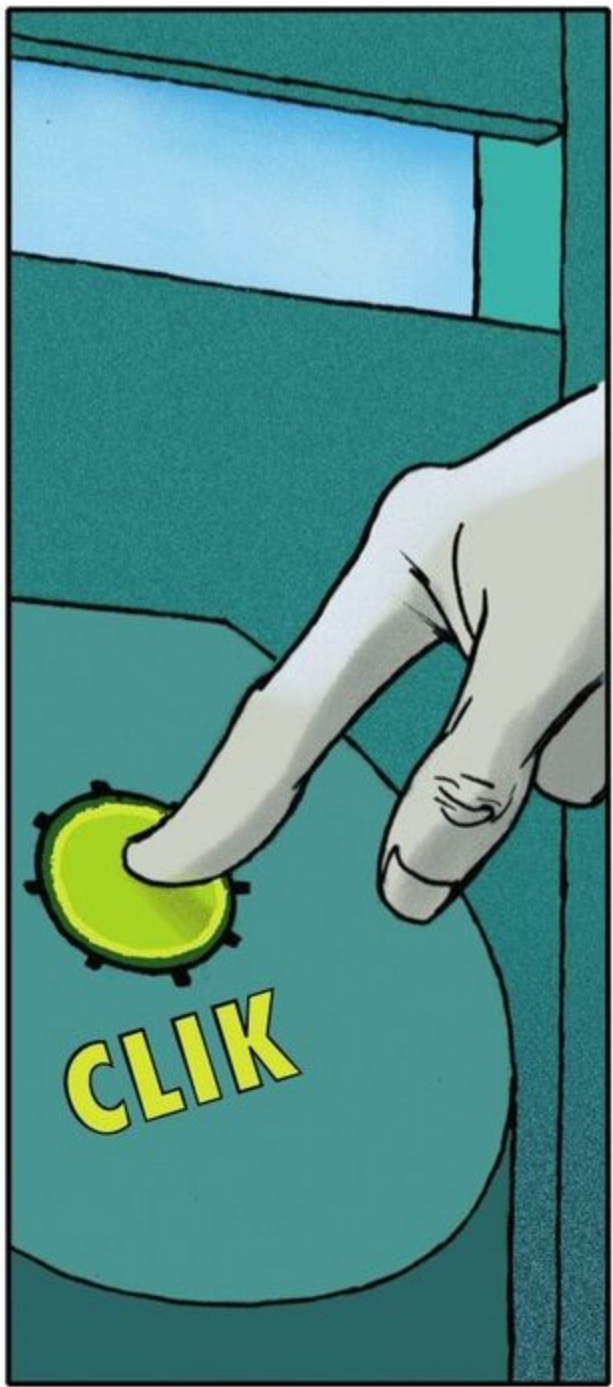
The top of the building is wired for surveillance. Hard line, remote. So I leave Batman in the pipes, enter as a nobody. City engineer coming to do a check.

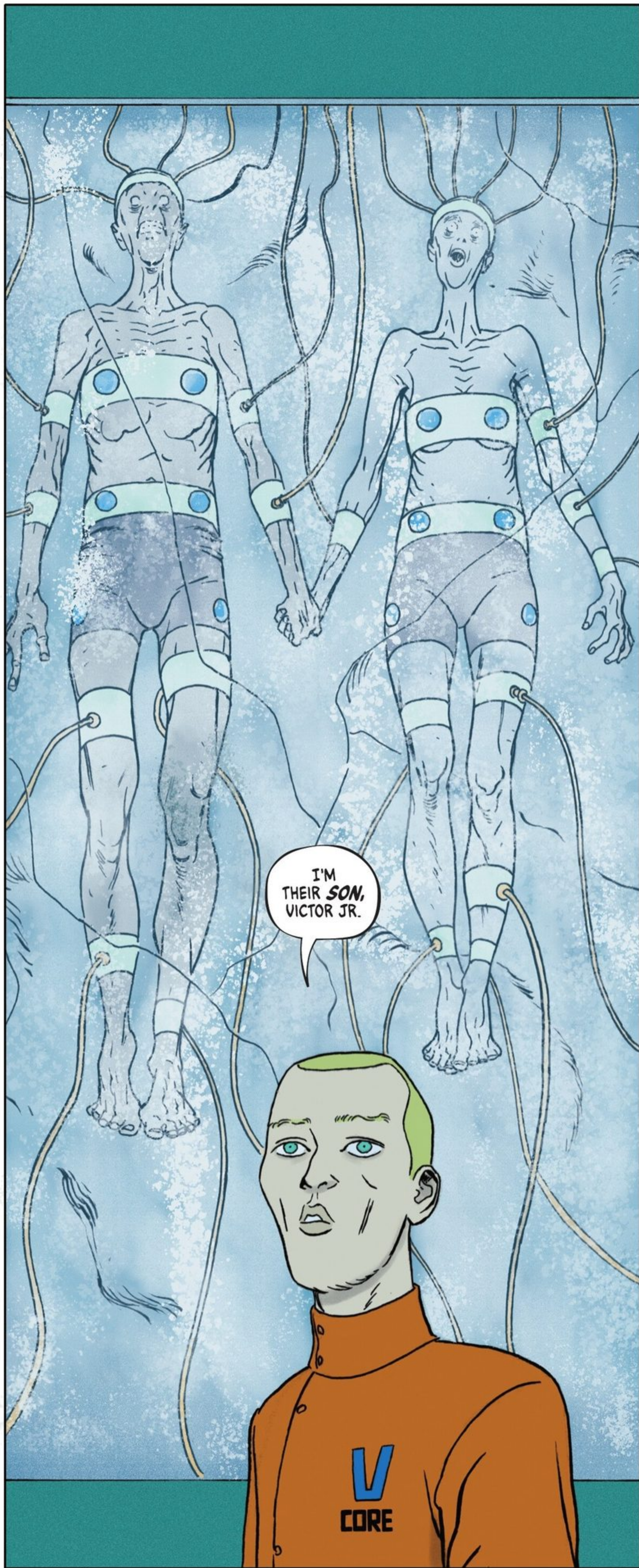


After all, what's happening up here that requires so much power?



THEY'RE ALL **REAL**, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE WONDERING.





"MY PARENTS ALWAYS BELIEVED THE ICE HELD **WONDERS**. THAT IT EXISTED TO PRESERVE GOOD THINGS UNTIL THE WORLD WAS READY FOR THEM. ICE WAS THE EARTH'S GRACE. BLUE AND PURE.

"THEY FUNDED THEIR RESEARCH WITH **U-CORE**, WHERE THE DYING COULD **PRESERVE** THEMSELVES IN ICE UNTIL **CURES** FOR THEIR DEATHS EXISTED.

"THAT'S WHAT THE POWER GOES TO. ALL THE PEOPLE FROZEN, WAITING TO BE WOKEN UP ONE DAY.

"INCLUDING MY **PARENTS...**"

"HAS ANYONE EVER ACTUALLY BEEN **REVIVED?**"

"YES...
ME."

"WHEN I WAS A BOY, I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A RARE TERMINAL DISORDER. DISTRAUGHT, MY PARENTS WERE CONVINCED THE CONDITION WOULD BE CURED ONE DAY, BUT NOT IN TIME TO SAVE ME. SO THE **ICE** WOULD SAVE ME INSTEAD."

YOU WALK AWAY NOW AND MARK MY WORDS, BRUCE, YOU WILL **DIE.**



Focus, Bruce. You got him talking-- now, while he's distracted, look. Look for anything that could help.

GUESS IT DID SAVE YOU.

YES. STILL, THEY TOLD ME IT WOULDN'T HURT. WHEN I WOKE UP, THE WORLD WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE.



BUT THE ICE... OHHH, IT'S NOT WHAT THEY THOUGHT.



Any link to what happened to... Matches?



HH.



NOT AT ALL...



"...ancient micro-organisms preserved..."

Maybe the question isn't where the bacterium that killed Matches came from. But when.



I FELT **EVERYTHING**. EVERY **MOMENT**. AND THE **PAIN**...MY GOD. ICE GRINDS AND TWISTS...THE **ICE** ISN'T GRACE. IT IS **FURY**. IT'S **RECKONING**.



HELL, BRUCE. LOOK AT YOU. YOU'RE ALREADY **DEAD**.



He did this...

THE ICE BIRTHS **MONSTERS**, MR. "PENNYWORTH"...



DEATHSTROKE'S BACK...FROM THE DEAD!

TITANS #22

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WRITTEN BY
**JOHN
LAYMAN**

ART BY
**DANIEL
BAYLISS**

COVER BY PETE WOODS



ALL IN

THE TITANS'
MOST DANGEROUS ENEMY
RETURNS IN
APRIL

SUMMER OF SUPERMAN SPECIAL #1

A CONVERSATION WITH MARK WAID AND DAN SLOTT

It's a great time to be a Superman fan. The long-awaited *Superman* feature film written and directed by James Gunn is out July 11 from Warner Bros. Pictures, and DC gets the celebration going on the publishing side with April's *Summer of Superman Special*—co-written by Joshua Williamson, Mark Waid, and Dan Slott and drawn by Jorge Jiménez.

Following the *Summer of Superman Special* one-shot, Joshua Williamson and Dan Mora take their era-defining run on *Superman* to unexpected territory, while Slott teams with Rafael Albuquerque for the new series *Superman Unlimited*, chronicling the Man of Steel's high-stakes present-day adventures, and Waid joins *Action Comics* alongside artist Skylar Patridge to explore Clark Kent's days as Superboy in Smallville in a whole new light. Here's more from Waid and Slott on what they have planned.

Mark Waid: The *Summer of Superman Special* is a look at Superman past, present, and future. I start the book with Clark as a 15-year-old boy, learning to be a superhero for the first time. What is that like, learning to use your powers at that age? What kind of challenges are you facing? We're bringing Smallville a little more up to date—it still has that rustic feel to it, but farms don't look like that anymore.

Dan Slott: Your section also has one of the greatest stars of the summer.

Waid: Krypto! I have been a Krypto booster my entire life, and to see the rest of the world finally understand what I love about Krypto—I'm so thrilled.



Slott: My section has Superman dealing with the present. It's the wedding of Lana Lang and John Henry Irons.

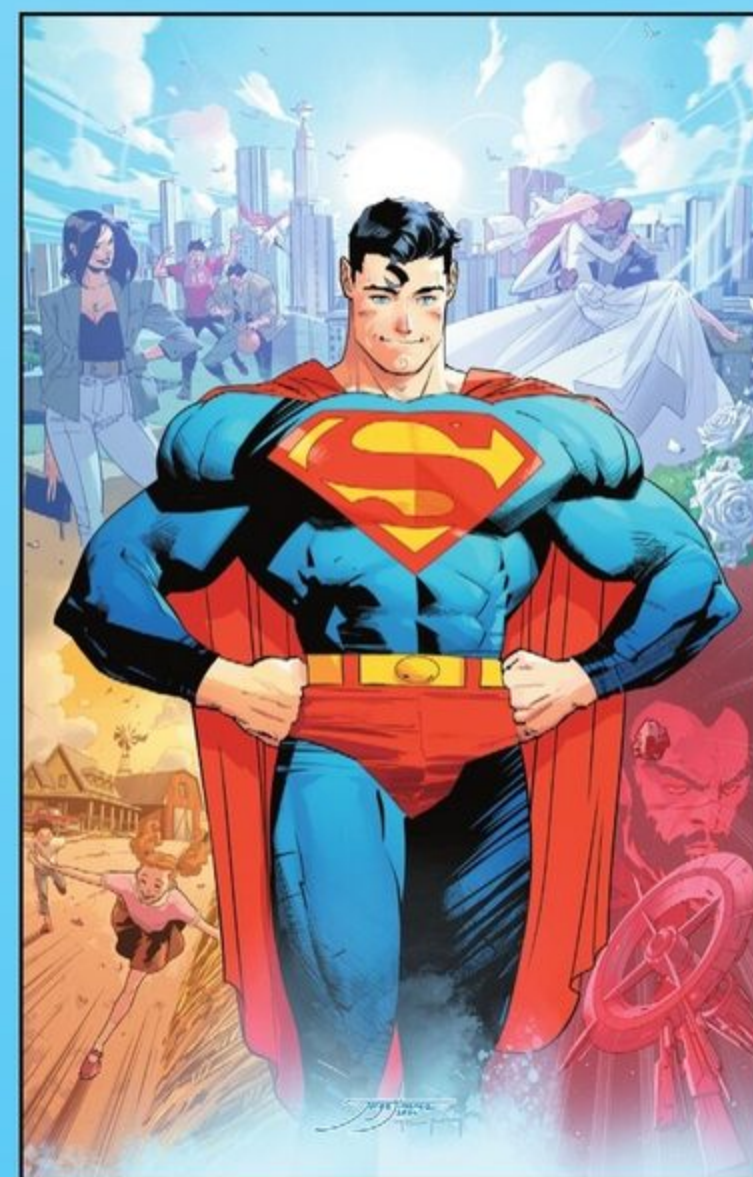
Through all three parts, including Josh's, there's some time shenanigans going on, and there's some fisticuffs. There's action. It's so much fun.

Waid: Dan, what is it you enjoy most about writing Superman?

Slott: The thing I like most about Superman, more than any other superhero, is there's the fantasy element that he can fly, he has so many powers—but the greater fantasy element is that he can do all these things, yet he's here for us. You feel good writing about Superman.

There's a sequence in *Superman Unlimited* #1 where it's not about someone believing in Superman—you find out how powerful it is that Superman believes in you.

Waid: I have always said that the gods get their powers because they encourage us to believe in them. Superman gets his powers by believing in us.



**DON'T MISS
SUMMER OF SUPERMAN
SPECIAL
ON SALE IN APRIL!**

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